COMMANDERS DIGEST

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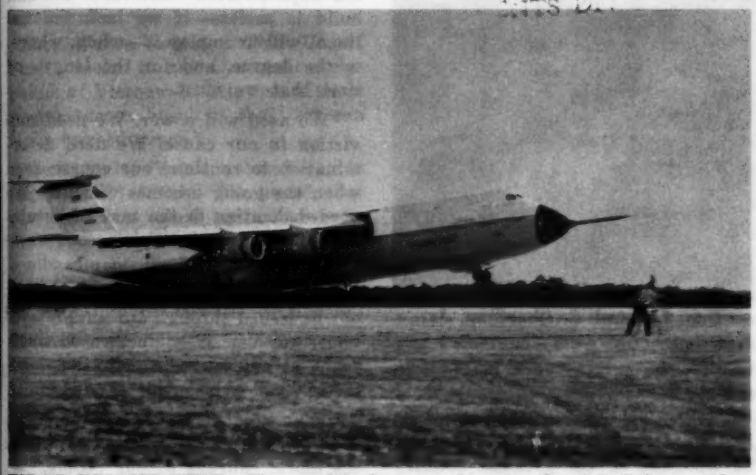

FIRST FLIGHT TEST—The world's largest aircraft, the C-5 Galaxy, takes off from Marietta, Ga., on its first test flight. The Air Force and the plane's builder, Lockheed-Georgia Co., called the test of the 248-ton plane highly successful. The maiden flight lasted slightly more than an hour and a half and an altitude of 10,000 feet was reached.

Defense Secretary Testifies in Support Of FY69 Foreign Military Sales Act

During testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford recommended the proposed FY 1969 Foreign Military Sales Act for "its value as an instrument of U.S. foreign policy."

The Act would provide about $296 million during FY 1969 for making credit sales to those countries the U.S. feels need credit in their purchases.

Mr. Clifford said, "The passage of this legislation would be valuable in carrying out of our basic policy in the world. This can be considered an arm of our foreign policy."

In outlining the motivation behind the Administration's proposal for the arms sales legislation, Mr. Clifford said:

"The United States should not—and, in light of Free World defense requirements, cannot—avoid continuing to serve as a source of arms supply for those countries whose security is linked to our own either by formal ties of treaty or less formal ties of common interest.

"We believe that our proposed legislation—with its clearly stated purpose and with its clearly expressed limitations, controls and restraints—will assure the Congress and the public as to the validity of the basis on which necessary U.S. arms sales are to be made and the adequacy of the policy and management restraints which will govern those sales."

The Sales Act would retain all present controls, Mr. Clifford said, adding that "it will establish further restraints designed specifically to ensure that the military sales program will

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Ambassador Vance Repeats U.S. Stand On Bombing Halt

Ambassador Cyrus Vance repeated to North Vietnamese representatives in Paris, June 26, that the U.S. is prepared to cease bombardment at the appropriate time and circumstances.

"Our fundamental premise is that North Vietnam must not improve its military position as a result of the cessation of bombardment by the United States," he said.

Mr. Vance pointed out that the President has been very explicit that continuation of the limited bombing of North Vietnam is directly related to his concern for the lives of allied soldiers.

In a speech March 31, President Johnson said that he had ordered a halt in U.S. air and naval bombardment of an area including almost 90 percent of North Vietnam's population and 78 percent of its territory.

Ambassador Vance noted that the attacks are directed against military targets which pose a threat to allied forces in South Vietnam.

The ambassador explained that most of the air operations against North Vietnam since March 31 have been concentrated in the region closest to the Demilitarized Zone, where the risk to allied forces from the increased activities of the North Vietnamese Army is the greatest.

The North Vietnamese representatives asked why the bombing cannot be stopped immediately and Ambassador Vance replied, "The answer is that instead of exercising restraint, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

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Gen. Chapman Praises Armed Forces Moral Fiber

The nation's reserve components possess a high degree of professional interest, coupled with genuine motivation and trained leadership, Gen. Leonard F. Chapman told members of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Association.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps said, "In time of crisis, it is the reserve components of our armed forces which make possible the accomplishment of our difficult missions —often providing the greater portion of our strength."

Noting appreciation of human values, Gen. Chapman told the MCROA National Convention delegates in Bal Harbour, Fla., June 20:

• We have learned the strength which comes to a military unit which possesses those intangible human values known as discipline, esprit de corps, and high standards of personal conduct.

• We have a slogan in the Marine Corps: "The Marine Corps builds men." But we mean by that slogan that a great deal more than mere muscle is being built. Character is what we really build.

• We build character because that is what sustains men in war. Character is the bedrock of determination. It is the source of strength for men in war. When they face death, danger, and a seemingly hopeless situation— it is determination which pulls them through.

• We have learned these things, you and I, in the uniform of our nation's armed forces. And, having learned them, we have taught them to other, younger, men who follow in our ranks.

Gen. Chapman then talked on domestic issues—people and problems—noting, "practically all of us here are of the same generation—a generation labeled today with the somewhat comic sobriquet of "square."

He described a "square" as "the guy who never learned how to get away with it. A 'poor Joe' who volunteers when he doesn't have to. A guy who trys to do something better than the absolute minimum to get by."

Gen. Leonard E. Chapman, Jr.

The general spoke of his generation and stated, "Somebody had once told us we lived in the greatest country in the world. A place where individual dignity and freedom carried along with them a number of responsibilities. A place where government had been created—of the people; by the people; and for the people. And we 'squares' believed what we were told."

He continued:

• Consequently—we didn't burn the flag in the concrete canyons of New York. We hoisted it—on a mountain called Surabachi—letting the world know we had seized Iwo Jima.

• Consequently—we had the will power, to use military power to keep our freedoms.

And that will power grew from patriotism. A patriotism which came from being "square." A patriotism which grew from character.

He asked the delegates to take a look at the country today—take a look around you. Look and see the difficulties we're having with our inner space. Note the corrosion that seems to be eating away at the moral fabric, the national character, the human values wherein lies the true strength of our land.

"This is a time when we need some 'square,'" he said.

Gen. Chapman stated, "There are those who say a military man should speak only on military matters. But let me tell you this. Military strength without moral fiber is nothing. All the sophisticated hardware we can build is useless—if we lack the national will to employ it—when, where, to the degree, and for the length of time that we must.

"We need will power. We need conviction in our cause. We need determination to continue our course even when the going becomes difficult: We need dedication to the task of retaining as well as exercising—our freedom.

"And will power such as that cannot be issued through our supply systems, nor can it be inculcated overnight at our training camps, nor injected by a hypodermic needle.

"That kind of power and strength comes only from the brains, the hearts, the moral courage of our people."

Gen. Chapman noted, "Our two hundred million countrymen have never failed this nation in time of crisis. From those men who left bloody foot-prints on the snow at Valley Forge, on down the line to those men who stormed ashore at Normandy and at Inchon—Americans have had the will power, the determination to protect their heritage, and to fight for it.

"And, through the exercise of these power, our country can—again—demonstrate the greatness of America. We can, again, have our moment of glory. We can, again, restore our real values.

He told the convention delegates of the fine example they had set to follow, adding since World War II and Korea with the benefits of hindsight, experience, and ever increasing maturity—"we have sired, reared and watched — sometimes in wonder — a new generation of Americans.

"It's a great generation, if our fighting men are typical of it.'

He added that the young man of today who bears arms in United States uniform is the smartest, toughest, best-led, most highly motivated youngster who ever shouldered a rifle in the defense of his country."

Vietnam Bombing

(Continued from Page 1)

has up to now intensified its war effort. When the appropriate circumstances are created, we will stop the bombing."

Mr. Vance added, "The United States looks to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to help create those circumstances soon so that we can move toward peace."

Ambassador Vance pointed out in his June 26 talks, "We hoped that circumstances would have made now the appropriate time for cessation of bombardment. We have put forth here a number of specific proposals for consideration by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. We have suggested agreement on some means of pulling apart the military forces in Vietnam.

"In particular, we have proposed reestablishing the Demilitarized Zone and have said we would welcome suggestions from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to that end. We are prepared to go beyond, toward a settlement based upon the fundamentals of the Geneva Accords of 1954 and 1962. But the early steps are crucial."

He explained, "The United States has taken the first steps unilaterally. And President Johnson said on May 30th: 'If Hanoi will take responsive action, we are ready to go far and fast with them and with others to reduce the violence and to build a stable peace in Southeast Asia.'"

Ambassador Vance added, "As we have previously indicated, our acknowledging or determining our responsibility for the cessation of bombardment has never presented an insuperable obstacle to us."

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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SAFETY AWARD—Gen. Robert W. Porter, Jr., Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Southern Command, presents the Department of the Army Award of Merit for Safety to Maj. Gen. Chester L. Johnson, Commander, U.S. Army Forces, Southern Command (USARSO), and Jack E. Doughty, USARSO safety director. The award is one of two given to those overseas commands which make the most significant reductions in accident rates compared with the previous year.

Foreign Military Sales Act

(Continued from Page 1)

continue to be fully and responsively a sound instrument of national policy."

Major provisions of the Foreign Military Sales act would:

—Vest full responsibility in the Secretary of State to integrate military sales with other U.S. activities abroad to "assure that the foreign policy of the United States is best served."

—Control possible third country transfers be requiring the buyer to agree not to transfer title or possession without prior consent of the President.

—Limit the total level of military sales to less developed countries by continuing the previously established ceiling for Latin America and African countries, and limit the worldwide total of Defense credits and guarantees that can be extended under the bill.

The Defense Secretary said the Act would also foreclose diversion of assets to excessive military procurement by less developed countries. This could be done, he said, by withholding further credit if the President determines that such diversion is taking place.

Other portions of the proposed legislation would expand the requirements for semi-annual and annual reports to the Congress on the various aspects of military sales.

The proposed Foreign Military Sales Act is the outgrowth of the sales authority established by Congress in the Mutual Defense Assistance legislation of 1949 and its extension in the Mutual Security Act of 1954.

With the improved economic capability of our industrialized allies, Mr. Clifford said "it is a logical development to separate the sales program from the Military Assistance Program.

He said the money requested to finance military credit sales would, while contributing to our national security and the defense of our friends and allies, be returned to the taxpayer in the form of economic benefits throughout the country.

Noting estimated expenditures in the U.S. military balance of payments in FY 1969 (excluding Southeast Asia) of about $4.6 billion, Mr. Clifford said that could be offset by receipts from the sale of military equipment totalling about $1.3 billion.

A REALISTIC VIEW OF COMMUNIST CHINA

Mainland China is an ancient and powerful nation with a population of more than 750 million people. Although U.S. officials have followed with great interest the developments there in recent years, they have in general refrained from official comment.

On 21 May, however, Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach gave an address in which he pointed out that our relations with Communist China are "always worthy of renewed consideration." Below are excerpts from his statement.

The evolution of our policy toward both mainland China and the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan has been spelled out often. But misconceptions and misunderstandings persist. I shall attempt to sort out a few of them and . . . summarize what we believe the situation there to be.

The Cultural Revolution, conceived by Mao Tse-tung as a means of eliminating individuals and viewpoints which deviated from the straight and true path he wanted China to follow, has now been raging for over two years. In that time hundreds of thousands, and perhaps even millions, of Communist Party and government officials and ordinary Chinese have come under criticism. Schools have been closed or disrupted. Key political, economic, and military officials have been dismissed. There has been intense political upheaval with major sectors of the economy and government thrown into confusion.

Situation on the Mainland

Since the major target of the Cultural Revolution was the organizational leadership of the Chinese Communist Party itself, the movement has had to rely primarily on *ad hoc* mass organizations of students or workers such as the famed Red Guards. At their worst, these have spread terror and chaos. At a minimum they have created a vast disorganization throughout the country.

At present Peking is attempting to reorganize and stabilize political and administrative organizations in the provinces.

While the major political forces operating in Peking are difficult to discern, Mao Tse-tung seems to retain his overwhelmingly preeminent position. Major issues—how best to carry out economic development, the role of material incentives versus idealogical motivations, the allocation of limited resources to areas of need—remain, however, and will probably continue to create intense disagreements and conflicts. But for the moment the authorities in Peking—relying increasingly upon the military—remain in overall control.

This—in broad outline—is the situation that seems to exist on the mainland. It is Peking's foreign policy, however, not its domestic problems, that is of greatest interest to us. And unhappily, its foreign policy, unlike its domestic situation, has remained static in the last few years.

Communist China's Foreign Policy

We have followed Communist China's foreign policy closely ever since the Communist government came to power in 1949. Although right from the beginning we made efforts to maintain contacts and avoid hostile relations, the Communist authorities left little doubt that they wanted to eliminate any American representation from the Chinese mainland and to pursue a politically hostile policy toward this country.

Even after North Korea's invasion of the South in 1950 the U.S. avoided rigid restrictions on contact and trade with the Chinese mainland. Only after the massive Chinese intervention in Korea late in the fall of 1950 did we put such restrictions into effect.

For a brief period beginning in 1954 Peking attempted to improve its international image. It was during this period that it agreed to ambassadorial contacts with the U.S. The original purpose of these meetings was to secure the release and exchange of Americans and Chinese who wanted to return home. An understanding was reached on the subject in September 1955.

But the Chinese suddenly changed their posture. Developments on the question, they said, were contingent on U.S. action on a wide range of other issues. One demand was that we abandon our commitment to the defense of Taiwan, which was not then and is not now open to negotiation.

In recent years, Peking has consistently turned down all proposals for increased contact. Proposals for the exchange of newspapermen, of scholars or scientific information, have all been rejected. Hints that we might be willing to sell commodities such as grain or drugs were ignored or denounced as a trick.

Peking's Intransigence

Why do the Chinese Communists maintain this position? One can only speculate. One reason may be simply a continuation of the same bitterness reported on 46 years ago by four distinguished Americans.

Reviewing the unhappy history of Chinese dealings with the West they concluded: *A situation had thus been created in which the Chinese people nursed a sense of grievance and even of outrage . . .*

Internal political factors must, of course, be considered. The dominant element within the Chinese Communist leadership still apparently thinks that easing tensions with the U.S. would represent a betrayal of the revolution.

Furthermore, we (and increasingly the Soviet Union as well) are seen by the Chinese as prime examples of what should not happen in their country. Contact, exchange, détente—all threaten not only the objectives of Peking's foreign policy but the whole ideological fabric which this generation of leaders has woven together.

So long as such attitudes persist in Peking, the establishment of diplomatic relations becomes unrealistic.

It is also evident that the entire question of U.S.-Chinese Communist relations cannot be considered apart from the relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of China.

This relationship is an old and friendly one and, under present circumstances, is based on common security interests. Since 1954 we have had a treaty commitment to help defend Taiwan and the Pescadores from external attack. The demand of the Chinese Communists for the control of Taiwan is totally unacceptable to us.

Chinese Communist Security Interests in Asia

Does the United States, through its bilateral and multilateral security arrangements with Asian countries, and by the existence of U.S. bases in Asia, threaten Peking? Do we fail to recognize that Peking has legitimate security interests of its own in Asia? Concern about an American threat to their security is undoubtedly felt by some leaders in Peking. I cannot stress too strongly, however, for their information or for that of anyone else who may be interested, that no basis for such a fear exists.

Threat Posed by Peking

Fears and threats can work in both directions, however. The countries around China's borders have the same right to feel secure and free from external threat as the People's Republic of China.

The military threat posed by Peking can be, and perhaps at times has been, exaggerated. But there is no question that on occasion Peking has been prepared to use armed forces across its frontiers. Certainly there is no doubt of this fact in the minds of the people of India or Korea.

A whole series of other Asian, as well as African and Latin American, nations have become aware of the financial assistance and training in guerrilla tactics offered by Peking to revolutionaries in their own countries. A number of them have severed diplomatic relations with Peking in protest.

Please do not take what I am saying to mean that I believe Peking is preparing to pour troops across its borders in great waves to occupy all the rimland of Asia. . . . The fact remains, however, that most Asians—from the Himalayas to Japan—see Communist China today as a potential danger to their security.

Hope for Better Relations

While hoping for better relations with Communist China, we are realistic enough to expect changes to come slowly. For our ability to influence the rate at which changes occur is limited. Many of them will result ultimately from altered perceptions and a more relaxed atmosphere within mainland China itself. The winds of change are blowing throughout the world. Sooner or later they must blow even over the Great Wall of China.

When they do, if they bring about a Chinese wish for improved relations, the United States will be happy to act positively.

In 1843 President John Tyler wrote a letter to the Chinese Emperor. The spirit of one paragraph can still stand as our attitude today. "The Governments of two such great countries should be at peace. It is proper and according to the will of heaven that they should respect each other, and act wisely."

Army Takes Steps to Improve Logistics Support

The Army has positive measures underway to improve its present logistic support structure and to take full advantage of modern technology to provide "the best possible support" for its combat forces.

In addition, Congress was told June 25 that currently accepted concepts are also being critically examined and questioned in order that the future Army logistics system can be designed on a sound logical basis "to best support land combat in the future."

Reporting to the House Subcommittee on Military Operations and the Government Operations Committee, Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Heiser, Jr., the Army's Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics (Supply and Maintenance), said the Army has a four point systems improvement program directed at achieving an integrated, standard, future logistic system that provides for:

1—Central direction and control of logistic systems development at Headquarters, Department of Army, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics level.

2—Intensive systems designs and development efforts addressing each support echelon in the Army Logistics System, intended to provide worldwide standardization.

3—The development of an integrated supply, maintenance and materiel readiness information system to integrate the support systems into a cohesive, vertical system from unit to Headquarters, Department of Army level.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Heiser, Jr.

4—Long range study and operations research, examining and challenging the doctrinal base upon which the present system is based.

In the transportation area, Gen. Heiser said, a major study effort is underway to determine how we can best use the rapidly advancing air transport technology in the 1970-1975 time period.

This study, he said, is called "Army Logistics Support Concepts—Airlines of Communications" and it examines several different concepts of supplying troops using an airline of communication, and develops possible savings in both personnel and stockage levels that could accrue from the use of such concepts.

The first part of the study has been completed using scenarios depicting conflict in Africa and Asia and is currently being staffed. A follow-on portion of the study will use scenarios prepared for Europe and the Mideast and is scheduled for completion in August.

Another study in progress, Gen. Heiser told Congress, is designed to provide the information and analysis essential for determining the optimum peacetime employment of military airlift and sealift systems. He said the study will lay the necessary groundwork "for insuring that efficient use is made of the growing airlift force."

Also, improved control of Army inventories, systems discipline and standardization and simplification of the various supply systems within the Army have been initiated and are in process of execution.

"In today's dynamic logistic environment," Gen. Heiser said, "emphasis is being placed on the need for improvement in logistic control and economy by the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff and at all command levels."

The United States Army has and is exploring every practicable means of increasing effectiveness and efficiency of its logistic system. Every improvement practicable, Gen. Heiser said, is and will be made provided it is compatible with the Army basic mission of supporting the combat soldier in battle.

Navy Tests System Designed to Pinpoint Plane Crash Locations

The Navy is flight testing and conducting service evaluation of a crash survivable, ejectable, airfoil package containing a flight data recorder and a location beacon to pinpoint location of air crashes.

Tests of the system, carried on a P-3 Orion out of the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Md., are scheduled for completion in mid-July.

Referred to as CPI/FDR (Crash Position Indicator/Flight Data Recorder), the system is designed to provide a reliable means of recording aircraft flight data. In addition, it is designed to safely deploy the flight data simultaneously from the aircraft in a crash situation, and to transmit automatically a distress signal from the crash site.

With the system, specific aircraft and aircraft systems performance data, together with voice data from both the pilot and co-pilot crew stations and the cockpit area can be monitored and recorded.

The location beacon will transmit on the standard international distress frequency which automatically initiates search and rescue operation. Upon location of an accident, the recorded data may be easily removed from the airfoil and played back to determine the cause.

If accepted for service use, plans are to retrofit all Navy P-3 aircraft with the system.

The system, lightweight and compact, is designed for flush-mounting in the port side of the aircraft's vertical stabilizer.

LBJ Signs Bill Changing Holiday Observance Dates

Beginning in 1971, four commemorative holidays will be observed on Monday under a bill recently signed by President Johnson.

Three of the present national holidays will be celebrated on Monday:

- Washington's Birthday on the third Monday of February.
- Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.
- Veterans Day on the fourth Monday in October.

The bill also establishes Columbus Day as a Federal holiday—to be celebrated on the second Monday in October.

At the signing, President Johnson said the bill will help Americans to enjoy more fully the country that is their magnificent heritage.

He added, "It will also aid the work of Government and bring new efficiency to our economy."

Provisions of the bill insure a minimum of five regularly recurring three-day weekends each year for Federal employees. The cost will be offset to an important degree by avoiding disruptions of Government business through Monday observance of holidays.

Army Names Location For SENLOG Command

The newly established Army Sentinel Logistics Command (SENLOG) will be located at Huntsville, Ala., the Army said July 1. SENLOG's mission is to provide logistical support to the Sentinel System, The Communist Chinese-oriented antiballistic missile system approved for deployment last September.

SENLOG was organized Apr. 15, 1968 at a temporary location in Washington, D. C. Its responsibilities include all aspects of inventory management and maintenance engineering functions required to support the Sentinel System.

Huntsville is the location of the Sentinel Systems Command, the field agency of the Sentinel System organization charged with development, acquisition and installation of the antiballistic missile system.

CHINA AWARD—Nationalist China President Chaing Kai-shek congratulates Adm. U. S. Grant Sharp, Commander in Chief, Pacific, after awarding him the Republic of China Order of the Cloud and Banner with Grand Cordon, in recognition of the admiral's efforts in behalf of Sino-American relations. The award was made in Taipei, Taiwan, during a farewell tour of the Far East by Adm. Sharp prior to his July 31 retirement.

NATO Defense Meeting Participants Agree To Prepare for Force Reduction Talks

Foreign ministers and representatives of countries participating in the NATO Defense meeting at Reykjavik, Iceland, June 24-25, agreed that it was desirable that a process leading to mutual force reductions should be initiated.

The ministers decided to make all necessary preparations for discussions of such reductions with the Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern Europe as they call on them to join in this search for progress towards peace.

Ministers affirmed the readiness of their governments to explore with other interested states specific and practical steps in the arms control field.

The ministers also affirmed the need for the Alliance to maintain an effective military capability and to assure a balance of forces between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

A declaration adopted by the ministers and representative states, "Since the security of the NATO countries and the prospects for mutual force reductions would be weakened by NATO reductions alone, Ministers affirmed the proposition that the overall military capability of NATO should not be reduced except as part of a pattern of mutual force reductions balanced in scope and timing."

In the Declaration, entitled "Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions," Permanent Representatives were directed to continue and intensify their work in accordance with the following agreed principles:

- Mutual force reductions should be reciprocal and balanced in scope and timing.
- Mutual reductions should represent a substantial and significant step, which will serve to maintain the present degree of security at reduced cost, but should not be such as to risk destabilizing the situation in Europe.
- Mutual reductions should be consonant with the aim of creating confidence in Europe generally and in the case of each party concerned.
- To this end, any new arrangement regarding forces should be consistent with the vital security interests of all parties and capable of being carried out effectively.

President Urges Lowering Voting Age to 18 Years

In his proposal to permit voting at the age of 18, President Johnson noted, "The young men of today serve their Nation in uniform with the same devotion as their fathers and brothers of earlier days showed."

He said, "I deeply believe that America can only prosper from the infusion of youthful energy, initiative, vigor and intelligence into our political processes."

The President proposed that Congress approve and submit for ratification of the legislatures of three-fourths of the States an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide, as follows:

"The right of any citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age if a citizen is eighteen years of age or older."

The State of Georgia since 1943, and the State of Kentucky, since 1955, have permitted 18-year-old residents to vote.

The two new States of Alaska and Hawaii have permitted 19 and 20 year old residents, respectively, to vote.

In his proposal, President Johnson stated, "Throughout our history as a young Nation, young people have been called upon by the age of 18 to shoulder family responsibilities and civic duties identical with their elders.

"At the age of 18, young Americans are called upon to bear arms...

"The age of 18, far more than the age of 21, has been and is the age of maturity in America—and never more than now."

The President pointed out, "The young people of America in this decade are far more ready, far better qualified, far more able to discharge the highest duty of citizenship than any generations of the past."

The first proposal for a Constitutional amendment in the voting age was advanced in 1942 by Senator Arthur Vandenberg.

President Eisenhower, in his 1954 State of the Union Address, urged an Amendment to lower the voting age to 18.

In the 90th Congress, more than 50 proposed Constitutional Amendments to extend voting rights to 18 year old citizens have been introduced.

President Johnson affirmed, "The concept has been tried and tested. Its merit has been established. Its rightness is now beyond dispute."

Gobal AUTOVON Network Slated for Completion in 1969

A global Automatic Voice Network (AUTOVON) is scheduled for completion next year to link almost 2,000 military installations and provide private switch service.

The AUTOVON network, already operational in the continental U.S., works through leased commercial telephone lines. The same type of system overseas is operated by the U.S. government with its own equipment.

The worldwide AUTOVON system is being installed for the Defense Communications Agency for use by military departments and agencies.

When completed, the 490L Overseas AUTOVON switching System will automate existing manual switching facilities, some dating back to the era immediately following World War II. Initial phase of the new system is scheduled for completion late this year.

The Air Force Systems Command's Electronic Systems Division, Hanscom Field, Mass., has as one of its many projects the installation of 17 communications switching centers to handle automatic voice network traffic.

The 490L system will replace the method of long-line communications currently employed by certain networks which involves the passing of messages through Air Force, Army and Navy networks, frequently requiring manual patching and, depending on the precedence, consuming hours to complete.

Switch centers for the 490L will be in Europe, Pacific and Caribbean areas.

Specifications call for "hot line" connections between any two predetermined points to be completed in average of two seconds.

The system will include high-speed, push-button dialing, interruption of low-precedence calls, switching of calls and world-wide conference calls of up to 26 participants without operator assistance.

Other features, such as broadcasting, abbreviated keying, precedence and pre-emption, will also be automatic. Five levels of precedence will be available.

Manual service will be replaced by the automatic features of the system permitting voice communications systems through cable, microwave, satellite and tropospheric scatter systems to be linked quickly and efficiently.

Built into the system will be electronic hardware to detect and report equipment failures and equipment operating below normal performance.

NOMINATED FOR REAPPOINTMENT—President Johnson announced he is nominating Gen. John P. McConnell for reappointment as Air Force Chief of Staff for a period of one year, effective from Aug. 1, 1968. He was originally appointed Feb. 1, 1965 and reappointed for two years Feb. 1, 1967.

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